

Romulus News

JANUARY 11, 2002 – JANUARY 24, 2002

"the little paper"

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 12

Timely Tidbits ...

Lambert To Speak At Chamber Luncheon

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert will be the guest speaker at the next Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce luncheon, which will be held at noon on Tuesday, January 15, at the Best Western Gateway International Hotel (located at 9191 Wickham Road).

Tickets are \$12 for Chamber members; \$14 for nonmembers. For more information, please contact Barbara Ann Snyder, the Chamber's executive secretary, at 734-326-4290.

Chamber Hosts Gala Wine Tasting/Auction

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will host a gala wine tasting/silent auction/dinner on Friday, February 8, at the Romulus Marriott Hotel (located at 30557 Flynn Drive). This popular event has drawn large crowds in the past, and Chamber President Kathleen Karas looks forward to another enjoyable evening this year.

The deluxe four-course dinner will feature several wine-tasting occasions as well as time to view and make bids on the silent auction's various items, including trips, dinners, tickets for entertainment and sporting events, and specialty gifts. The evening will begin with an open bar (6:15 p.m.), followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m., with wine-tasting sessions between each course. A wine expert will explain the types of wine that go with the different dinner courses and the participants will then be able to sample the wines.

Finally, participants will have one last opportunity to bid on auction items before the results are announced.

A donation of \$30 per person is requested for this fun-filled evening. Reservations should be made with Barbara Ann Snyder, the Chamber's executive secretary, no later than January 28.

For more information, contact Snyder at 734-326-4290. □

Barth Wins \$50,000 Golden Apple Award

Barth Elementary recently became the Romulus Community Schools' second "State of Michigan Golden Apple Award" winner, joining 2000 winner Merriman Elementary in this elite classification. Barth was one of only 38 schools in southeastern Michigan to achieve this distinction this year.

Principal Diane Golka commended her students, their parents, and her staff for their outstanding achievements.

"This Golden Apple Award was the result of a total team effort," said Golka. "We all work together, and everyone is dedicated to high academic goals and high achievement levels."

Barth was awarded its Golden Apple in recognition of its significantly improved Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores from 1999 to 2001. The school's scores improved by a total of 61.3 points in the four core subjects – math, reading, science, and writing – tested each year. The State recognizes all schools that improve by 60 or more points in the four core subjects over a three-year period.

Tom Dolan, Director of Curriculum for Romulus Community Schools, expressed his pleasure with both the award and the increased achievement of the district's students.

"Our curriculum is aligned to the State's benchmarks and outcomes in each subject area, and we continue to work very hard to raise student achievement levels throughout the district."



Barth Elementary staff members include (from left): front row – Deborah Street, Lauren Withey, Principal Diane Golka, Susan Mitchell, Karen Richard, and Carol Gursky; middle row – Kendra Friebe, Theresa Blizman, Sheila Stasak, Pat Hamlet, Alicia Deltoro, Sylvia LaBoda, Gerilyn Kline, Lori Siegenthaler, Carol Fulton, Brenda Clark, and Kara Wasser; back row – Scott Jastrzab, Rob Baty, Michael Blackburn, Lori Fritz, Sue Eastman, Denise Bills, Gail Perkins, Becky Montroy, Anne Chaput, and Charles Wood.

Joel R. Carr, Superintendent of Schools, added, "We have developed our educational systems to meet the needs of our children in Romulus, and we believe that we have a very strong educational product."

Carr concluded by urging all Romulus parents to continue to emphasize high academic achievement with their children, and thanking them for their outstanding support of the district.

The Golden Apple Award's \$50,000

prize will be divided into two portions, with \$10,000 being allocated to Principal Golka, to be used for the school improvement project(s) of her choice; use of the remaining \$40,000 will be determined by a staff vote.

The Golden Apple Award was the second state-level award earned by Barth this school year. Barth was also one of only three elementaries to receive the Middle Cities Education Association's Muth Award last September. □

Community Activist's Passing Is Mourned

The Romulus community has been saddened by the passing of one of its longtime activists, Jason P. Lovette.

Born in Screven County, Georgia, on November 26, 1908, Lovette graduated from Screven County High School in 1937 and from Savannah State University in 1941. That same year, he entered the United States Army, from which he retired as a colonel 20 years later.

In 1962, Lovette earned his Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University and went to work for the Ecorse Public Schools, where he taught for several years. He studied school administration at the University of Michigan in 1974, and served as a school principal with the Ecorse district until 1975.

Lovette's work for the betterment of Romulus has taken many forms, including service on various City commissions and the Romulus Board of Education, as well as active membership in organizations such as the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club (which he joined in 1968, and for which he served as District 640 Governor from 1978–1979).

He was honored as the Chamber's "Person of the Year" in 1984.

Jason Lovette passed away Thursday, January 3, at the age of 93. He is survived by his wife, Ethel L. (Rowe) Lovette; three sons, Jason Jr. (Inkster), Kary A. (Detroit), and Clifford F. Lovette (Sylvania, GA); one daughter, Phyllis L. Elrod (Romulus); one sister, Louise

Powell (Macon, GA); seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Among those predeceasing him were two brothers, Julian H. and Clinton S. Lovette, and two sisters, Alice and Dolly.

Visitation was held at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus) on Wednesday, January 9, from 6 to 8 p.m., and again on Thursday, January 10, from 12 to 8 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at Second Grace United Methodist Church (18700 Joy Road, Detroit), with the Reverend Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr., officiating. Burial will be at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial tributes may be made to the Jason P. Lovette Scholarship Fund through the Second Grace church. □

Guest Commentary

Impending Clinic Closure Impacts Families

By Susan Hurt

Due to enormous debt in our state government, the Romulus Adolescent Health Center, located in Romulus High School, has had its funding eliminated by the State of Michigan. Originally notified that the clinic would have to close by December 7, the clinic was able to receive temporary financial help that will keep its doors open until the end of January. Immediate assistance is needed in the form of letters to state representatives in order to push the legislature to find the funds necessary to maintain the clinic. (For more information, go to www.romtown.com or call the health center at 734-941-1907.) Failing that, the need for private funding in the form of donations, corporate pledges, etc., will be necessary.

While flyers and articles in the newspapers relate the facts and figures about the closure, what is missing is the enormous impact that the closure will have on the community of Romulus. Almost half the households in Romulus (46%) are headed by women. Only 11% of students are fully insured, 15% are underinsured, 8% have Medicaid, and 65% are uninsured. What this means is that families in Romulus are in critical need of medical- and mental-health services that their own funds or insurance simply won't cover. The median income in Romulus is only \$20,000 per year.

The typical single-parent family is already struggling to make ends meet. As a single parent of three children, I know how devastating the lack of help from the Romulus clinic would have been for my family – not only for my children, but also for me as a parent trying to get through some extraordinarily difficult years. My children and I had to go to a shelter for a short time when I filed for divorce from an abusive spouse. My sons began high school in Romulus and had a difficult time adjusting to a very different school environment from the small high school they used to attend. During the two years it took to finalize the divorce, seven friends and family members died, one of my sons was severely depressed and suicidal, and the other was also having a lot of difficulty but didn't want to add to the stress I was under. My daughter then had to deal with the death of her father in a car accident shortly after the divorce was final. I was barely making ends meet, exhausted, and worried about getting my children through all of this. Teenagers have their own feelings to deal with, but also worry about their parents.

Without the assistance of the clinic personnel – director Diane Vidovic, in particular – things may have turned out very differently. It was she who notified me about how serious things were getting for one of my sons. For his English class, he wrote a paper that spoke of suicidal attempts. While I had him in counseling, I had hoped that things were improving. He wanted to "just make it stop hurting." I was afraid to sleep because I would find him at four o'clock in the morning, cutting himself again. He didn't want to tell me how bad things were because he didn't want to worry me, so he would go to school every day and pretend he was all right. Because of his depression, he was not sleeping, was always tardy, and was getting suspended for being tardy so often that he failed every class, even though he would get an A on a final exam. I was able to get him help at the University of Michigan and finally able to get the school to recognize a medically diagnosed disability so that they would stop suspending him. Rhonda McAllister, the social worker at the school, was able to help him get through the days and helped formulate a plan for him.

After almost two years of repeated failures, he was finally on his feet with medication and, after deciding to repeat his senior year rather than take a GED, ended up on the honor roll at one point. He scored 21 on the American College Test (despite falling asleep because of his medication), graduated, and is now on his own and going back to school to take classes in video editing and creative arts. Very few realize what it took for him to go back to get his diploma and what it meant to him.

My other son was also struggling with school and feeling that there was no point in trying because there was no money for college. Things seemed hopeless to him. He was angry at our circumstances, felt that there was no future for him, and was trying to deal with the deaths of too many friends and family members in such a short time. He couldn't talk to me about it. He talked to Diane and was able to get his anger under control, concentrate on school, and get his grades back to where they needed to be to graduate. He scored 26 on the ACT, received Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) funds, and received a Michigan Competitive Scholarship. He is now also starting two businesses: one focuses on web design and the other on home computer repair. He credits Diane and the clinic with giving him the motivation

continued on page 10

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National Education Expert Praises Romulus Schools



National education expert/consultant Jack Bowsher (third from left) had plenty of praise for the Romulus school district during his recent visit. Also pictured are (from left) Wendy Blohm (Learning Center specialist, Cory), Sharon Silveri (Principal, Halecreek), Tom Dolan (district Director of Curriculum), Chris Smith (district technology consultant), and Phyllis Adkins (Principal, Cory).

Dr. Jack Bowsher, a nationally known education expert, had many complimentary things to say about Romulus Community Schools after his recent visit to the district. Bowsher - the former Director of Education for IBM - specializes in adopting technology to education. He currently works as a consultant and lecturer on school improvement, and is the author of the book *Fix Schools First*.

"Your school system is one of the

most impressive districts that I have visited," he told school officials. "Your efforts to have a consistent, integrated curriculum throughout the district, along with a common assessment system, is right on target."

Bowsher also praised Romulus for its cutting-edge use of technology, and noted that the district was featured in Compass Learning Corporation's fall 2001 newsletter, which was sent to more than 12,000 educators nationwide. □

School District Switches To New Phone System January 14

Romulus Community Schools will switch to a new district-wide telephone system on Monday, January 14. Parents and students should make note of the new phone numbers to insure prompt communication with their neighborhood school.

All district phones will now have the same 532 exchange, and it will no longer be necessary to make long-distance calls between buildings. Bill Routhier, Director of Business/Operations, says the district will enjoy better phone service while realizing a substantial savings. □

New Phone Numbers Effective January 14

LOCATION	MAIN #	ATTENDANCE #
District Administrative Office	532-1600	
District Transportation Office	532-1650	
Romulus High School	532-1000	532-1249
Romulus Middle School	532-1700	532-1849
Barth Elementary School	532-1250	532-1299
Cory Elementary School	532-1300	532-1349
Halecreek Elementary School	532-1350	532-1399
Merriman Elementary School	532-1400	532-1449
Romulus Elementary School	532-1450	532-1499
Wick Elementary School	532-1500	532-1549
Mt. Pleasant Adult/Community Ed.	532-1950	
Mt. Pleasant Special Services	532-1990	
Burton Center - MSRP	532-1942	
Burton Center - My Friends & Me	532-1940	
Burton Center - Head Start	532-1900	532-1949



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Student's Generosity Warms ... Hands



The efforts of Barth Elementary first-grader Andre Temple Young warmed the hearts – and, equally importantly, the hands – of 30 area children last month. With help from his mother, Jamie, he collected and donated 30 pairs of mittens for the school mitten tree.

Romulus Community Plans Big M.L. King Celebration

Romulus Community Schools, the City of Romulus, and the Romulus Ministerial Association are joining together to sponsor a Remember! Celebrate! And Act! Day in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 21.

"Dr. King believed that positive words and ideas and nonviolent action could change the world," said Kathy Hurst, Service-learning Coordinator for the district. "Acts of kindness become a part of our daily lives when we are given continual opportunities to do good things."

"IMAGINE," she continued, "an entire community coming together to pledge to carry on Dr. King's message. On January 21, Romulus youth, teachers, senior citizens, business members, government officials, and religious and nonprofit organizations will join together to put his ideas into practice."

"We hope that everyone will join us to make the holiday 'a day on, not a day off.'"

Kicking off the celebration will be a "Walk for Warmth," for which participants will be encouraged to bring donations of hats, gloves, scarves, etc. for children in need, as well as spirited signs, banners, and flags. The march will begin at Romulus Middle School at 9 a.m. and end at Romulus High School, where a light breakfast (courtesy of

Best Western Gateway Romulus) will be served. Afterward, an extensive program in the school auditorium will feature performances by the Romulus Community Choir, skits by area children, one of Dr. King's speeches, and other words of inspiration from community leaders.

School buses will be provided to transport walkers back to their vehicles.

Editor's note: The Romulus Community Choir will hold rehearsals in the High School auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15; Wednesday, January 16; and Thursday, January 17. New faces are welcome. For more information, call Ellen Bragg at 941-1600. □

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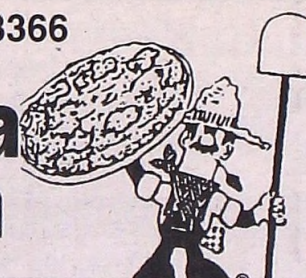


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Wednesday – Spaghetti Dinner or
Mostaccioli Dinner: \$5.99 + tax

Thursday – Cod Dinner:
\$5.58 + tax

Friday – Wing Ding Dinner:
\$5.63 + tax

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or
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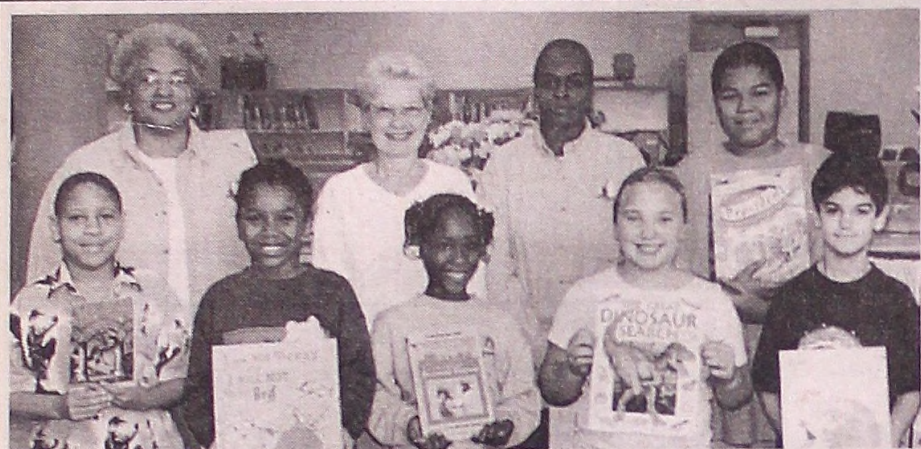
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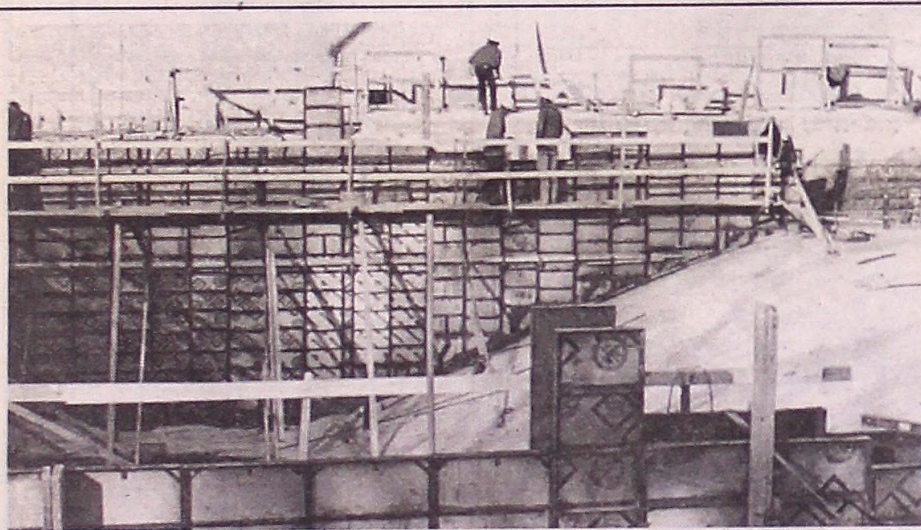
Around the District



(Back, from left) Cory Principal Phyllis Adkins and staff members Wendy Blohm and Irene Sandusky congratulate book-winners (front row, from left) Reynard Mullins, Cailyn Mines, Johlysaa Brown, Ashley Gavin, Michael Henich, and (back, right) Kyle Sherwood. The winners' names were among many that had been entered in a special drawing because their parents were kind enough to complete a form on volunteerism.



Each year, Nancy Baziuk, physical-education teacher at Halecreek, recognizes her school's "top milers" – those who finish the mile run in the lowest time. This year's best (from left): front row – Faith Hoover, *Jermaine Dalton, *Dimitrius Clark, Michael Cole, and Derrick Tigney; back row – Andra Stephens, *Floyd Goforth, Brittany Charleston, *Michael Lammers, *James McGlynn, and *Justin Hückestein. (*under 8 minutes)



The main pool for Romulus High School's new swimming complex is beginning to take shape, with foundation and wall work now in progress. The complex – funded through the \$34-million bond issue approved by voters in 1999 – is scheduled to open in the late fall of 2002.



Unloading food that Merriman students donated to Helping Hand were (from left): front row – Michael Hickman, William Lukas, and Chris Zanot; back row – Amy Binder, Jeremy Taylor, Amanda Menser, Dontez Sharpley, Whitney Martinez, Kentrell Brown, Michael Cochran, and Joey Coatsworth.



High School sophomore Brandon Johnson spent \$283 of his own money to buy Christmas gifts for a needy family. He exemplifies the wonderful spirit of the season shown by many Romulus students.



Alexa Snyder's idea of holiday happiness is designing and making your own gingerbread cookies. The Barth kindergartner enjoyed showing off her culinary creations.

THE DREAM LIVES ON

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**Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 21st
by joining us for the 9 a.m. Walk for Warmth march from
Romulus Middle School to Romulus High School**

Romulus Community Schools Board of Education and Staff

Holiday Concerts



Preparing for Romulus High School's holiday program for the symphonic and concert bands (which was widely acknowledged as among the best ever) were (from left) Andrea Redding, Tanya Formosa, Chris Berry, Jennifer Kiesznowski, Kristina Rafalski, Kristen Brooks, and Jessica May.



Flute and clarinet players preparing for the Middle School's holiday concert included (from left): front row – Darryl Carroll, Ashlee Wells, Tamara Carney, and Kathryn Appel; back row – Joanna Morgan, Lindsay Beregsasy, Ashley Moss, Lindsay Green, and Samantha Arnett-Butschler.



The trombone section of the Wick/Cory/Romulus elementary schools' advanced band included (from left) Chris McGovern, Brad Burcroff, Jasmine Abney, and Mariah Haney.



The Middle School's Kristina Pruett (left) composed and sang "Say You'll Love Me"; "The Cuties" (Holly Wood, Shakita Wilson, Vaneshia Williams, Tatiana Gray, and Britnee Shreve) composed their own dance selection.

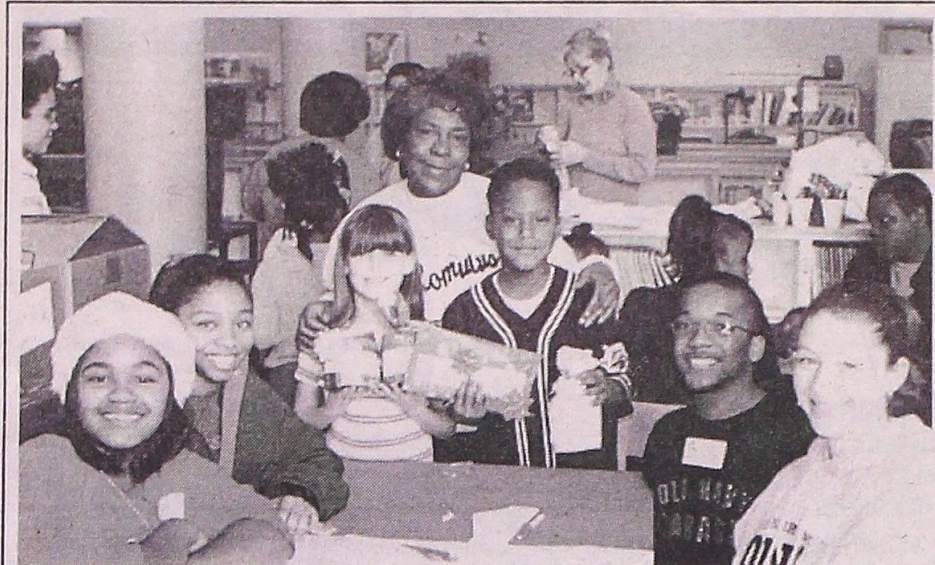


Dance students preparing to perform at a holiday program that featured dance and vocal students included (from left) Jenia Cooper, Cherise Lundy, Novella Haugabook, Alicia Bowen, and Ameera Marion.



Billy McCraight (right), Vice-president of the Romulus Board of Education, enjoyed the High School's holiday concert, especially since his tuba-playing grandson, Steven McCraight, was among the performers.

Optimist Club Donates Gifts for Holiday "Shopping" at Cory



Students at Cory Elementary School got a chance to do some free "shopping" for Mom and Dad at the Wayne-Romulus Optimist Club's annual holiday gift program, assisted by "elves" from Romulus High School's National Honor Society. Participants included (from left) Antoinette Price, Amber Barnes, Shantelle Harris, Mae Jackson (Club member and RHS counselor), Willie Sledge, Jerome Gray, and Deana Hunter.

The Wayne-Romulus Optimist Club sponsored its annual holiday gift program for Cory Elementary students last month. Children were invited to choose two gifts – one for Mom, one for Dad – and then have them wrapped by volunteer "elves" from the National Honor Society at Romulus High School.

Optimist Club members, friends of Club members, NHS members, and Cory Principal Phyllis Adkins donated

the gifts for the extravaganza. Farmer Jack (Wayne, MI) donated the gift bags. Optimist members who assisted at the Cory workshop included Albert Garrett, Deena Houston, Reverend Virgil Humes, Mae Jackson, Opal McClendon, Donna McConnell, Henry Nolan, and Peggy Thomas.

Mae Jackson, a Romulus High School counselor who is also an Optimist Club member, coordinated the event. □

Local Kids Enjoy Lunch with Santa



Heather Kitchen, a six-year-old first-grader at St. Aloysius Catholic School, acted as Santa's helper by turning pages for him as he read 'Twas The Night Before Christmas to nearly 50 children who took part in the Recreation Department's annual "Lunch with Santa" program.

Community Calendar

- **Youtheatre Offers *Good Driving, Amelia Bedelia* and Other Stories** – Youtheatre's Wiggle Club (for children age three and over) will present *Good Driving, Amelia Bedelia* on Saturday, January 12 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.); and Sunday, January 13 (2 p.m.), at the Millennium Centre (15600 J.L. Hudson Dr., Southfield). Individual tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance; \$10 at the door. Group discounts are available. For more information, please call 248-557-PLAY (7529).
- **Cable Commission Meeting** – The next meeting of the Romulus Cable Commission will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 S. Wayne Rd., at Goddard Rd.). The meeting will be televised on cable channel 12.
- **Romulus Democratic Club** – The Romulus Democratic Club will meet at the UAW Union Hall, Local #157 (29841 Van Born Road) at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 21. Pizza and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Jack H. Trumble, Club President, at 734-941-3513.
- **Free Valentine Craft Class** – Children in grades K–6 are invited to take part in a Valentine craft class being offered at the Romulus Public Library (11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall) at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 10. Although there is no charge to participate, advance registration is required. Call 734-942-7589.
- **Preschool Storytime: "Nursery Rhyme Time"** – Children ages three to five who are ready for independent listening, but are not yet in kindergarten, are invited to take part in the winter/spring storytime program at the Romulus Public Library (11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall). The program will feature stories, games, and crafts related to its "Nursery Rhyme Time" theme. Parents can choose between the Tuesday evening (7 p.m.) session, which will begin February 13 and continue through March 20, or the Thursday morning (10:30 a.m.) session, which will begin February 15 and continue through March 22. Although the program is free, space is limited, so early registration is recommended. Call 734-942-7589.
- **"African American Experience" Book Discussion Group** – The African American Experience Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (next meeting: February 20) at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall). New members are welcome. For more information about the club or its reading list, call Alfaye Woods or Diane Hazen at the Library (734-942-7589) during regular business hours (Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m.).
- **Church Hosts "Study Hall"** – The Belleville Church of God is sponsoring a new weekly program, called "Study Hall," for middle- and high-school-age students. Held each Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. at the church (45170 Hull Road, just east of Sumpter Road), the program will provide youths with a quiet place to study and complete their assignments. Adults will be on hand to provide guidance, resources, supplies, and insight, if needed. No religious instruction or structured teaching will be given. Dinner will be provided. Rides can be obtained by calling 734-325-2682.
- **Attention, All St. Aloysius Alumni!** St. Aloysius school is compiling a list of all former students for future reunion plans. Anyone who attended school there is asked to contact the school office (734-941-3340) for more information, or to obtain a form to complete and return.
- **Open Registration at Romulus Head Start** – Romulus Head Start is now enrolling three- and four-year-old children for its free preschool program. For eligibility information, call 734-727-9920.
- **Metro Charter Academy Seeks Fund-raiser Help** – The Metro Charter Academy is currently seeking community support for the following school fund-raisers: **Box Tops for Education** (found on General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker products, Yoplait yogurt, and Lloyd's Barbeque Buckets); **Campbell's** (includes labels from Campbell's soups plus can and jar labels from various Franco-American, Swanson, Pepperidge Farm, and V8 products; since sizes and products may vary, contact the school for a detailed list); and **Tyson A+ Project** (A+ Project redemption label located on freezer items). For more information, call the Academy (734-641-3200).

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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Seniors Go Home for the Holidays



(From left) Rollin Pegowski, Marian Ferch, Marguerite Cherdon, Dan Jorgensen (Southwest Airlines Marketing Manager), Ruth Pegowski, and Cassandra Smith-Gray (Assistant WC Executive). See info at right.

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

(For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins downtown, please call 734-942-6852.)

Seniors Fly "Home for the Holidays"

Representatives of Wayne County and Southwest Airlines recently presented four Romulus senior citizens with a free round-trip plane ticket so that they could fly "Home for the Holidays."

The lucky winners were Marguerite Cherdon (who went to see an old college roommate in Nashville), Marian Ferch (who visited a friend in Tampa, Florida, whom she hadn't seen in 24 years), and Rollin and Ruth Pegowski (who traveled to Tampa to visit a sister-in-law and nephew not seen in 9 years).

Through the twenty-second annual "HH" program, seniors applied to receive complimentary airline tickets to visit family and friends. Assistant Wayne County Executive Cassandra Smith-Gray distributed the tickets to the winning seniors at a luncheon held December 5 at the Airport Marriott Hotel.

"Recent events have made it clear that it's more important than ever to stay in touch with family and friends, and Southwestern Airlines has again generously offered a way for seniors to make the trip," said County Executive Edward H. McNamara.

The seniors' relatives and friends were also given free airfare to accompany the winners as their traveling companions.

Southwest Airlines officials reviewed the applications and selected recipients based on need. Seniors had to be 65 or older, live on a fixed income, and demonstrate a strong economic need. Applications were distributed by Wayne County Nutrition Services to all congregate and home-delivered Meals on Wheels recipients in out-Wayne County.

This year, Southwest Airlines distributed approximately 1,015 tickets nationwide. Tickets—valid through January 26, 2002—cannot be exchanged for cash or be traded.

"Southwest has always wanted to give back to the communities we serve," said Dan Jorgensen, Southwest Airlines Detroit-area Marketing Manager, "and this is one way to do that."

Winter Luau

The Romulus Senior Center urges you to mark your calendars for Friday, January 25, when it will host a "Winter Luau" beginning at 1 p.m. The menu for the event will feature sweet-n-sour chicken, white rice, pork, fruit, and more. Senior Program Coordinator Linda Norman says that only the first 60 to purchase a ticket (\$5.50) will receive a shell lei, but everyone's sure to have fun, so put on something colorful and join in. (Note: To make all the preparations easier, please sign up as early as possible.)

Computer Classes

Openings are still available in two upcoming sessions of computer classes for senior citizens. To learn more, call or stop in at the Romulus Senior Center.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman at 734-942-6852.

- **Soaring Eagle Casino**
(January 26; \$12);
- **Soaring Eagle Casino**
(February 12; \$18);
- **Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall**
(February 14; \$49);
- **Geritol Follies**
(February 28; \$70); and
- **Bay Mills**
(April 1-2; \$89).

Weekly Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled programs are also open to local senior citizens. They include:

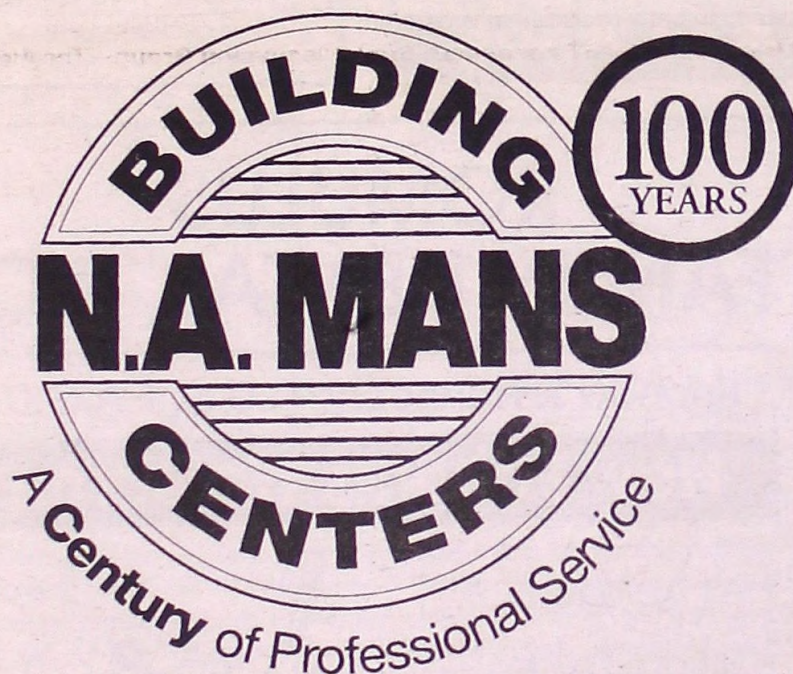
- ceramics (Mondays, 1 and 6 p.m.),
- Club #1 (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 1 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Free Tax Preparation

Beginning February 6 and continuing through April 10, volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons will be available (by appointment only) at the Romulus Senior Center to assist low- and moderate-income Romulus seniors with the preparation of their Federal and State 1040 forms, as well as those for homestead property taxes, home-heating credits, and prescription credits.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration. □

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James R. "J.R." Whaley

James R. "J.R." Whaley—a long-time resident of Romulus, Michigan—died on Thursday, December 27, 2001, at the age of 75.

A native of Covington, Kentucky, J.R. was born on July 29, 1926. During his time in the United States Navy, he was station aboard the *USS Hornet*, and was a current member of the *USS Hornet* ship-restoration club.

After working 30 years at the Ford Motor Company's Michigan Truck Plant, J.R. retired in 1991. He was a member of United Auto Workers Local #900, the Romulus Rotary, the Romulus Veterans Memorial Committee, the Romulus Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Belleville Loyal Order of Moose.

J.R. is survived by his wife, Joanne (Wilson) Whaley; two sons, James Allen (Commerce Twp., MI) and Christopher J. Whaley (Adrian, MI); a stepson, Brent A. Hopson (Romulus); a stepdaughter, Susan L. (Ed) Wright (Belleville, MI); three grandchildren; one stepgrandchild; and one step-great-grandchild.

Among those predeceasing him was his brother Stewart.

A funeral service was held on Monday, December 31, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with the Reverend William Kren (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery. Memorial tributes may be made to the CUMC Building Fund. □

Clinic Closure Impacts Families

continued from page 2
to graduate and having hope for the future.

My daughter was having nightmares about the accident her father had been in and was trying to adjust to the fact that her father was gone. She was also extremely worried about her older brothers. My daughter will be entering high school next year, and is still coping with her own issues. The idea that the clinic will not be there if she needs help is one that is difficult to contemplate. Many times, my children found it much easier to talk to someone other than me because I was having a tough time myself. The out-of-pocket costs for counseling and medication were taking a huge toll on our budget. Because the boys were having so much trouble with their grades, they were unable to obtain a driver's license, since Michigan's law (while well-intentioned) will not allow failing students to get one. Romulus has no mass transit, which makes it almost impossible for teens to get jobs unless their parents can drive them.

Many, many kids came through the doors of my home while my sons were in high school, and I heard a lot of stories from them. When teens are happy, doing well at home, working, and graduating with plans for college, their futures can look great. Many students have graduated with honors and scholarships and all the rewards that come with these accomplishments, but Romulus also has an enormous untapped resource in teens who are very bright and talented, want a good future, and are willing to work hard, but are dealing with frustrating and depressing circumstances in their lives. If we cannot offer them options, assistance, and hope, they can become depressed, unmotivated, and angry. They cannot learn, or they just give up trying. They

may develop problems with discipline, turn to drugs and alcohol, become suicidal, or begin to believe that they have no future and drop out of school. What if the parents are in trouble themselves? Who do these kids turn to for help?

Another important issue is the ease of accessibility. Besides the convenience it offers for students dealing with medical issues such as asthma, concerns about pregnancy, and questions about other issues that they might not want to discuss with their parents, it is also a great benefit to parents who have jobs that limit their time off or who have no transportation. The clinic is a "safety net" for families. I sometimes spent time on the phone with Diane, and just being able to talk to someone who knew my children and understood what was happening in our lives was a source of support for me as a single parent.

The clinic can help our young people in ways that the schools can't because of the sheer number of students involved and medical and confidentiality issues that are dictated by law. Ours is only one story. There are others out there—many far more serious. Some just need a little help.

The core issue is that the closing of the Romulus Adolescent Health Center will impact not just a few students with a few problems, but entire families. It will impact businesses that are looking for employable young people with good attitudes and job skills. It will impact the future of the community, which needs to support and help bring out the best in all students. □

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Obituaries

Elisabeth P. Atkinson

Elisabeth P. Atkinson of Romulus, Michigan, died Sunday, December 16, 2001. Born May 8, 1924, she was 77 years old.

Elisabeth is survived by her husband, David L. Atkinson; a daughter, Silvia (Arizona) Rossier (Romulus); a stepdaughter, Rebecca (Fred) Johnson (Scottsdale, AZ); one granddaughter, Angela Chafins; one grandson, Jeffery Christensen; and five great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by three brothers (Eric, Fritz, and Hans Lier); one sister (Marga); and one great-grandson (Cody).

A funeral service was held on Monday, December 17, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Reverend John Goodman (Lighthouse Ministries) officiating. Interment was at United Memorial Gardens (Plymouth, MI).

Memorial tributes may be made to Angela Hospice.

Stella T. (Beck) Senk

Stella T. (Beck) Senk of Williamston, Michigan (formerly of Wyandotte and Romulus, Michigan) died Sunday, January 6, 2002, at the age of 84.

Born in Wyandotte on November 19, 1917, Stella was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church (Williamston), an avid gardener, and a collector of antiques, including dolls.

Among those surviving her are two daughters, Dr. Sharon L. Senk and Carolyn Schein (both of Williamston); two grandchildren, Emily and Andrew Schein (both of Mt. Prospect, IL); one brother, Stanley (Mary) Beck; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Henry A. Senk, in 1992.

A funeral mass was celebrated on Wednesday, January 9, at St. Mary Catholic Church, with Reverend Thomas W. Thompson, Pastor, officiating. The rite of committal was held in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Williamston.

Funeral arrangements were made by Gorsline-Runciman (Williamston).

Memorial tributes may be made to the American Heart Association (Memorial Tribute Program, Dept. 77-3968, Chicago, IL 60678-3968), the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (2350 S. Huron Parkway, Ann Arbor, MI 48104), or St. Mary Catholic Church (157 High Street).

Simon E. Binder

Simon E. Binder of Romulus, Michigan, died Thursday, December 13, 2001, at the age of 86.

The retired Romulus Community Schools teacher was born July 22, 1915, in Spangler, Pennsylvania.

His survivors include sons Michael H. and Norman E. Binder, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Monday, December 17, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus), with Father Festus Ejimadu officiating. Burial was at Romulus Cemetery. Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

James R. Brooks

James R. Brooks of Westland, Michigan, died on Saturday, December 22. He was 26 years old.

James — a native of Wayne, Michigan — was born October 22, 1975. The Marine Corp veteran worked seven years as a truck driver for the Buck Oil Company, and was an avid deer hunter and fisherman.

Surviving James are his wife, Jennifer Brooks; his parents, William and Carolyn Brooks (Romulus, MI); a grandfather, William (Charlotte) Brooks (Flat Rock, MI); a grandmother, Betty Brooks (AK); a brother, William Brooks III (Dearborn, MI); and two sisters, Lisa M. and Danielle J. Brooks (both of Romulus).

A funeral mass was held Wednesday, December 26, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Father Festus Ejimadu (St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Romulus) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Rancil F. Hughes

Rancil F. Hughes of Romulus, Michigan, died on Wednesday, December 12, 2001. He was 56 years old.

Born in Brookside, Kentucky, on December 22, 1944, Rancil was an avid bowler and outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing, and traveling with his family in their 38' motor home.

Among those surviving him are his wife, Georgia Hughes; one son, Rancil Hughes Jr. (Canton, MI); three daughters, Mrs. Dale (Tracy) Eddings (Romulus), Mrs. Richard (Tanay) Pushles (Jackson, MI), and Ms. Tonia Kurzyniec (Redford, MI); two brothers, Lonnie (Wayne, MI) and James Hughes (Romulus); two sisters, Mrs. Robert (Gaynell) Jordan (Mt. Morris, MI) and Mrs. John (Pam) Rodzek (Windsor, Ontario, Canada); and six grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, December 15, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor James Milligan (Garden City Church of God) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Violet I. McNeil

Violet I. McNeil of Brooksville, Florida, died on Friday, December 21, 2001. She was 78 years old.

Born on January 10, 1923, the native of Stratford, Ontario, Canada, was a retired cafeteria worker (Ford Motor Co.) and a member of the Romulus Marvel Bunco Club.

Violet's survivors include her husband, Newell McNeil, Jr.; one son, Brian McNeil (Romulus, MI); four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, December 29, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Reverend William Kren (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus) officiating. Interment was at Parkview Memorial Park (Livonia, MI).

Emmett Mills, Jr.

Emmett Mills, Jr., of Belleville, Michigan, died on Monday, January 7, 2002, at the age of 72.

Born on October 20, 1929, in Louisville, Mississippi, Emmett served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. The City of Romulus employee was a member of the Belleville Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #934, Romulus Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #9568, and the Westgate Masonic Lodge #520. He was an easy-going, well-liked gentleman whose interests included gardening.

Emmett's survivors include his wife, Gerry (Fleateau) Mills, whom he married on May 8, 1954; one daughter, Pamela Ann Mills (Belleville); two sons, John Emmett Mills (Romulus) and Mark Henry (Carolyn) Mills (Columbia, TN); a sister, Ruth (Joe) Lenoir (Brandon, MS); and one granddaughter, Emily Ann Dishaw.

He was predeceased by his parents, Emmett Sr. and Tennie (Smith) Mills, as well as a sister, Shirley Holton, and a brother-in-law, James Fleateau.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 11, at David C. Brown Funeral Home (Belleville). Dr. Kenneth W. Miller will officiate. Interment will be at Hillside Cemetery (Belleville).

Memorial tributes may be made to United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit.

Stella J. Ptaszynski

Stella J. Ptaszynski of Sumpter Township, Michigan, died on Monday, January 7, 2002, at the age of 89.

The native of Granby, Connecticut, was born on April 14, 1912.

Stella's survivors include two sons, Christopher (Beatrice) Ptaszynski (Belleville, MI) and Theodore Ptaszynski (Hazel Park, MI); one daughter, Rosemary

Insley (Royal Oak, MI); five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by three brothers (John, Steve, and Joe Yourous) and one sister (Rose).

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 11, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus, MI), with Monsignor John Trese (St. Columbian Catholic Church, Birmingham, MI) officiating. Interment will be at St. Mary's Cemetery (Wayne).

Joseph Reed, Jr.

Joseph Reed, Jr., of Romulus, Michigan, died on Saturday, December 29, 2001, at the age of 17.

The Romulus High School senior was born in Farmington Hills, Michigan, on February 11, 1984.

Joseph is survived by his mother, Sherrill Reed; two brothers, Kevin and Jon Reed; a stepbrother, Robert Reed; two stepsisters, Debbie and Penny; and a number of uncles and aunts, including Mary Carson, Kirk and Michele Hudson, Joseph and Charlene Ditzek, Donald Hudson, Richard and Pat Ditzek, Irene Kubicki, and Robert and MaryAnn McCallib. He is also survived by his girlfriend, Crystle.

A funeral service was held at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor McKinley Wells (Faith Outreach Church of God and Christ) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Harold "Fuzzy" Sylvester

Harold C. "Fuzzy" Sylvester of Romulus, Michigan, died on Monday, December 17, 2001, at the age of 80.

A native of Dearborn, Michigan, Fuzzy was born on March 2, 1921, and married his wife Frances in New Boston, Michigan, on June 20, 1942. The retired maintenance welder for Ford Motor Co. went on to work for Reinholt Landscaping, cutting grass, after retiring. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Flat Rock Elks, and the Belleville Loyal Order of Moose.

Fuzzy leaves his wife; two daughters, Sharon (Gerald) Tomey (Sturgis, MI) and Joann Bower (Whitmore Lake, MI); one son, Harold D. (Barbara) Sylvester (Devil's Lake, MI); nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by siblings Ray Sylvester and Eleanor Wood.

A funeral service was held on Friday, December 21, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Reverend William Kren (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). □

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